

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, based on applicant's use of the phrase "cleatlock". The term "cleatlock" has been deleted from the claims and further amendments have been made to the form and substance of the claims which are believed to render such claims in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based on the newly cited U.S. Patent 1,243,107 to Richardson, combined with the newly cited U.S. Patent 1,105,624 to Davis.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based on Richardson and Davis combined with the newly cited U.S. Patent 5,540,307 to Pickering.

Dependent claim 6 was noted by the examiner to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form and amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejections previously referred to. Applicant would like to defer rewriting of claim 6 in independent form pending further consideration of the application based on the remarks contained herein.

U.S. Patent 1,243,107 to Richardson shows a suspendable clamp having two strands of rope 9 that depend from a pulley 11 fixed to the frame of the clamp. The Richardson clamp locks onto one strand of the rope 9 when it is pulled downwardly past a clamping dog 5. The clamping dog 5 has a cam surface that is rotated against the rope as the rope moves downwardly. The cam surface moves against the rope to lock the rope

against a bearing lug 7. Thus downward movement of the rope 9 past the clamping dog 5 causes the clamp to lock against the rope 9.

Unlocking of the rope 9 in the Richardson clamp can occur only when the strand of rope 9 that is locked between the clamping dog 5 and the bearing lug 7 is enabled to move upwardly. Upward movement of the locked rope strand 9 past the clamping dog 5 causes the cam surface of the clamping dog 5 to move away from the rope to release the rope 9 from its locked position. In the Richardson clamp the locking and unlocking action of the clamping dog 5 with respect to the rope 9 is controlled by the direction of movement of the lockable rope strand that engages the clamping dog 5. Thus, downward movement of the lockable, cam engageable rope strand 9 causes a locking action, whereas upward movement of the lockable, cam engageable rope strand 9 causes an unlocking action. However, upward movement of the lockable, cam engageable rope strand 9 can only be accomplished by a downward pull on the rope strand 9 that does not engage the clamping dog 5, namely the rope strand 9 that depends from the pulley 11 on a side opposite the clamping dog 5.

In applicant's device, a downward movement of the rope strand 2''' (Fig. 5) will lock the rope strand 2''' in the locking device 4 due to engagement of the rope strand 2''' with the keyway wedges 4''. However the rope strand 2''' can be released from the keyway wedges 4'' by pulling the rope strand 2'' sidewardly and outwardly as shown in dotted fashion in Figs. 1 and 5. The sideward and outward movement, as shown in Fig. 1, is accomplished by pulling the strand 2''' in the manner shown in dotted line in Fig. 1. Thus, a downward movement of the rope strand 2''' can cause a locking action of the rope 2''' in the locking device 4, and an outward sideways movement of the rope 2''' can unlock or release the rope strand 2''' from the locking device 4. This downward or outward and sideways

movement of the same rope strand for purposes of locking or releasing the rope strand is highly beneficial in applicant's training apparatus because readjustment of the upward and downward positioning of the locking device 4 relative to the rope strand 2''' is accomplished simply by manipulating the rope strand 2'''.

U.S. Patent 1,105,624 to Davis shows a clutch device for rope hoists where a counterclockwise movement of an arm 9 having a cam face 9' causes the cam face 9' to lock against a rope strand 14. Release of the cam locking action of the cam 9' is accomplished by removing a load from the hoist 15 thereby unloading the rope strand 14. The unloaded rope strand 14 can then freely move downwardly with respect to the sleeve 1. There is no showing or suggestion in Davis that the rope strand 14 is capable of moving sideways and outwardly from the clutch device to unlock the rope strand 14 from the clutch device.

Applicant's claim 1 as amended requires:

“...a rope locking device 4 with two opposite sides, one of said sides having a rope receiving groove and a sideways opening through which the second part of the rope can sideways enter the ... groove to be ... locked therein and ... released by being pulled out sideways and outwardly therefrom ...”

U.S. Patent 5,540,307 to Pickering is for a rescue system and does not show or suggest a locking device having the above requirements.

Applicant thus discloses and claims a training apparatus wherein one of two depending rope strands is fixed to a locking device and the other rope strand is moveable with respect to the locking device. The relative position of the locking device with respect to the other strand is adjustable by manipulating just one of the two strands. Thus, the locked

position of the lockable strand 2''' is readjustable from the locked position by pulling the lockable strand 2''' sideways and outwardly from the locking device 4.

Based on applicant's claimed structural and functional distinctions, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Richardson and Davis as well as Pickering. Allowance of claim 1 is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-5 and 7 are likewise submitted as allowable for the distinctions defined therein as discussed in applicant's previous amendment. Allowance of claims 2, 4-5 and 7 is thus respectfully requested.

Newly submitted dependent claims 8 and 9 are also submitted as allowable for the distinctions defined therein as well as the reasons supporting allowance of claim 1. Allowance of claims 8 and 9 is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 6, which was identified by the examiner as containing allowable subject matter, is also submitted as allowable.

Applicant further submits that the claimed structural and functional differences of the training apparatus previously discussed are patentably distinguishable over the other references of record whether considered individually or in combination with Richardson, Davis and Pickering.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

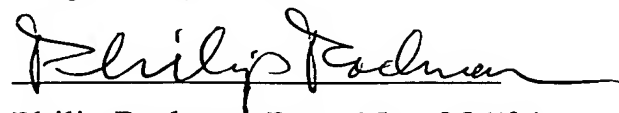
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philip Rodman", written over a horizontal line.

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